

Serial No.: 10/629,595

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

FEB 07 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-20 are pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-3 and 5-20 be reconsidered in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 17, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 18 has been amended for clarity to provide antecedent basis for each of the terms. Claim 20 has been amended to address the examiner's concerns. With regard to claim 17, it is submitted that the disclosure makes it clear what is intended by the term "hidden frame" type, i.e., that which is illustrated in figure 2.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Weimar.

Claim 1 recites a clip made of rigid thermoplastic material, and the office action asserts that such an element is anticipated by element 4 of Weimar illustrated in figure 7. It is submitted that this is in error. "Rigid" means "stiff or unyielding" and "not pliant of flexible," whereas Weimar teaches element 4 is a gripping portion made of resilient material. (Col. 2, line 7.) "Resilient" means "springing back" or "rebounding," and "flexible" is a synonym. Thus, the gripping portion of Weimar is not rigid and does not anticipate the claimed invention. The office action further cites element 18 as a "reinforcing means," which is believed to be incorrect. Element 18 in Weimar is merely a bore, not a reinforcing element. The bore 18 does carry a wire 20, but that wire merely operates as a purse string and does not reinforce any element of the clip. Thus, for this reason as well, Weimar does not anticipate claim 1.

Claim 20 also recites a rigid clip and further requires a reinforcing element solely in the web of the clip. Because Weimar does not have at least these elements, it simply cannot anticipate claim 2.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Gopalan et al.

Claim 1 clearly recites a reinforced clip made of rigid thermoplastic material, whereas Gopalan teaches a substrate of relatively rigid and relatively soft portions. This teaching is clearly not anticipatory of the recited language of a clip of rigid thermoplastic material and instead appears to be a teaching of contrary structure. Thus, Gopalan

Serial No.: 10/629,595

does not anticipate claim 1 or those that depend from it. It is further noted that claim 17 depends from claim 15, which has not been rejected as unpatentable over Gopalan. Claim 15 is clearly patentable over Gopalan, and claim 17 is therefore clearly allowable as well.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3, 6-13, 15, 16 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Guillon in view of Weimar is respectfully requested.

The combination proposed by the examiner is nowhere suggested in either Guillon or Weimar and is further directly contrary to the teachings of these references. In particular, as pointed out earlier, element 18 of Weimar is merely an opening for receiving a wire 20. Thus, to the extent that the Office is actually referring to opening 18, the rejection is clearly incorrect. To the extent the Office intended to refer to wire 20, there is no reason whatsoever to use such an element on a clip already asserted to be rigid. The wire 20 does not reinforce the jaws or web of the clip any more than a purse string reinforces the walls of a purse, and the statement that the "reinforcing means provides extra rigidity to the weatherstrip along portions which need strengthened" merely avoids the issue.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested. Please charge any deficiency and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,  
CLARK & BRODY



Conrad J. Clark  
Reg. No. 30,340

Suite 250  
1090 Vermont Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
202-835-1111  
202-835-1755(fax)  
February 7, 2007